



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

LM01/0703

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
09/339,340	06/23/99	092	PENDER JR, M	2762 07/03/00
First Named Applicant	HSD, 35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 Days.			

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM, METHOD AND MEMORY MEDIUM FOR DETECTING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GRAPHICAL PROGRAMS

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEE DUE	DATE DUE
0 5150-18701	717-003.000	082	UTILITY	NO	\$1210.00	10/03/00

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.

THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/339,340

Applicant(s)

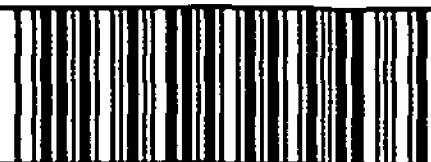
Ray Hsu

Examiner

Michael Pender

Group Art Unit

2762



All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed June 8, 2000.

☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-92.

☒ The drawings filed on Jun 23, 1999 are acceptable.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

☐ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

☐ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. _____.

☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on _____, which has been approved by the examiner.

☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Tariq R. Hafiz
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2700

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1. Claims 1-92 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is the Examiner's statement for reasons for allowance:

The claimed invention allows a programmer to compare different versions of a program coded in an object-based language. Prior art teaches the use of "diff" type tools for comparing text-based programs or the text components of traditional object-oriented languages such as Visual BASIC. Prior art also teaches the comparison of binary resources that comprise the graphic user interface elements of such programs. However, the cited prior art taken alone or in combination does not teach the use of "diff" type tools for programs written in ***graphical code*** when the programs do not have underlying source text.

The Examiner emphasizes that the claimed invention is directed to comparison of programs written in ***graphical code***. The invention is ***not*** directed to comparison of standard programs written in a visual programming language. Nor is the invention directed to mere comparison of graphical objects. ***Graphical code*** refers to programs written in languages like LABVIEW wherein programs control is directed by selecting and connecting icons that represent system functions. In general, ***graphical code*** does not have or require a text-layer to fully specify a program. Consequently, traditional "diff" tools are wholly incompatible with ***graphical code***.

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The disclosed invention is apparently the first “diff” tool for programs written in *graphical code*. The Examiner interprets that the present invention will make the process of programming and debugging *graphical code* programs more efficient.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Michael Pender whose telephone number is (703) 308-0147. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached at (703) 305-9643. Any response to this office action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry), or:

(703) 308-1396, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive Arlington, Virginia, (Receptionist).

Michael Pender

Michael Pender

June 30, 2000


Tariq R. Hafiz
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2700